

COMMUNITY CONTENDER

I TIMOTHY 2:15

Edition 4

June 2016

“THANK YOU LORD, I NEEDED THAT”

I had a coach who used to say, “No pain – no gain” as he prompted us through rigorous and exhausting physical routines. We knew we needed the discipline but we sometime hated the hurtful process. The OT Psalmist must have had similar feelings on a much greater plane when he said, **“I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me (Ps. 119:75).** One of the most valuable lessons we can learn in moving on to maturity in Christ is that **left to ourselves, our weakness, waywardness, wickedness and willfulness will interfere with the maximum usefulness that God intends for our life.** In Hebrews 12:12-16 we are exhorted to recognize the necessity and value of correction and thereby respond positively for maximum spiritual benefit.



FRIEND, CHECK OUT GOD’S CORRECTIVE GOALS IN SEEKING TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR HIS CHILDREN TO ACHIEVE GOLD FOR HIS GLORY:

1. We need chastening to help us stay emotionally/mentally strong and avoid Defeat (12:12).

*Referencing Isaiah 35:3-4, where the prophet preaches to the chosen people in the caldron of tribulation the writer seeks to instill hope and courage, understanding full well the discouragement that trials can bring to our human hearts. The point is --- rather than allowing our difficult circumstances to sap our strength, stagger our steps, and stoop our shoulders in despair we must be energized by the endurance and joy that come by consciously setting our sights on the fulfillment of the promises of God (*i.e.* **“...Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come... even God with a recompense; he will come and save you.”**)

2. We need chastening to help us stay spiritually straight and avoid Defection (12:13).

*This imagery points back to the runner in the race of Hebrews 12:1 and the removal of ‘weights’ and obstacles that can turn us out of the path of God’s will. Remember warning passages like II Peter 3:17 reminding us to **“...beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness”**, or I Corinthians 10:12, **“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”** “Straight paths” are plain paths or smooth ways for easier travel which have been made possible because the Lord is going before and protecting us from being tripped up or caused to stumble (Note: Jeremiah 18:11-15; Prov. 15:19; Prov. 4:25-27).

*The Greek word for “turned out of the way” is ‘ἐκτρέπω’ having medical overtones descriptive of a foot that is ‘sprained’, ‘dislocated’ or ‘out of joint’ and thereby turned from the path of obedience and holiness. The concern is that we can allow chastening to move us away from the Lord, take a wrong turn towards the world or falter and fall from the path of the race (Note: I Tim. 1:6; 5:15 and Lk. 8:13).

3. We need chastening to help us stay relationally surrendered and avoid Defiance (12:14).

*Two relationships (**to man and to God**) are mentioned which need to be protected because they are subjected to increased strain when we are under the pressure of trials, correction or discipline. How often we show un-Christlike attitudes of anger, retaliation, spitefulness or upsetness towards others when God is seeking to refine our character by chastening. An argumentative, abrasive, arrogant spirit towards people is evidence that we are not allowing correction to move us toward the Lord in surrender but have a

resistant will. Here we are commanded to *'follow peace with all men'* (lost and saved) which is exactly the high ethical standard lifted up in the countenance of the Lord Jesus Christ toward His persecutors and enemies (Note: I Peter 2:11-23). Scripture admonishes us to *race after peace* toward all men with as much as lies in us (Rom. 12:18). This is one of the most neglected and sinned against commands in all of the New Testament.

*The second relationship at risk when we are under chastening is with the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Remember chastening is a nurturing process with godliness and holiness as the goal (12:10). The process is profitless as soon as we coddle an unsundered will to the Lord. The command is to pursue on-going sanctification because it is the essence of Christian living. With it we can enjoy the presence of God and a vision of His holy Person. Without it we wouldn't stand a chance of ever being in His presence (I Thess. 4:1-4; II Cor. 6:14-7:1).

4. We need chastening to help us stay morally safe and avoid Defilement (12:15-17).

*Every professing believer is commanded to be a diligent watchman (ἐπισκοπέω – same word for 'Bishop' or 'the one who oversees' – I Pet. 5:2) over his own soul to guard it from the contamination and corruption that result from being outside the influence of the grace of God.

***Guard against the root of bitterness under chastening:** We can't see roots from the surface as they are smaller than the plant that grows from them. In the case here, a description is used of a plant that sprouts up suddenly and stubbornly with a root system that must be fully pulled up to prevent rapid spreading. A root of bitterness begins with a deep dissatisfaction with life's circumstances. It may be a sliver of anger, disappointment, disillusionment that is allowed to fester and become infected (Deut. 29:18). It is possible to allow chastening to make us bitter to the point that we rebel against the Lord and adopt carnal habits of life (Gal. 5:16-17).

***Guard against the fruit of bitterness under chastening:** As in the case of Esau (Gen. 25-27), bitterness not only troubles our own life but infects and defiles others. Esau was immoral because he had "profane" (Greek word βέβηλος = meaning unclean, heathen, wicked) character which led him to care more for pleasing himself than the Lord. He chose worldly values over eternal and became a bitter soul.

*Christians can fall into any sin, but we are more prone to sins of immorality, idolatry and impurity when we become complacent and backslidden taking for granted the grace of God (Titus 2:11-13). When we despise the Lord's chastening and correction a bitter spirit can open the door to *"great transgressions"* without the protection of sufficient grace (Ps. 19:12-14). *We don't know WHO or HOW some will fail, falter, and fall, but take heed to the warning that it could be us (Heb. 3:12; 4:1). Heaven's chastening in our life should lead us to say, "Thank you Lord, I needed that."*

MEMORY CORNER:

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

Revelation 12:11

"But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord."

Jonah 2:9

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

Daniel 1:8

JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

Rich Prue-1

Eric and Emily Rice-21

Ron and Lori Mann-6

Herb and Dottie Lukens-21

Linda Antonow-10

Jared Trauch-23

Micah Spangenberg-14

Elijah Rice-24

Joe Repholz-15

Lillian Johnson-24

Jennifer Trauch-16

Caelyn McGonigal-26

Allison Mergen-18

Jason and Melissa Makin-26

Dave and Cheryl Bell-19

Debra McGahey-28

Jim DeLucia-19

Joshua Rowland-30

Jose Narvaez-20

Joshua Narvaez-30

Bill and Wanda Capelli-21

WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE IN THE 1700'S

People made their own clothes from flax and wool, candles, furniture, boots and shoes. They had no rubbers, lead pencils, metal pens, coal oil, gasoline, electricity. The lanterns were punctured sheet iron, no cans or canned goods, no telegraph, telephone, cars, postage stamps or envelopes. It took two weeks for a letter to go and return from New York. Postage was twelve times as much as now. No newspapers except a few weekly's in the large cities, printed by hand on wooden presses, no photographs, no such a word known, no matches, few stoves.

They had no granulated sugar. No oranges, lemons, or tropical fruits or tomatoes. Many pounded their corn and wheat in wooden mortars scooped out of a stump. No running water in the house. No cut nails. No corn brooms. No machines for mowing, reaping, threshing, washing, wringing, sewing. All such work was done by hand. No autos or airships and yet our great grandparents were just as contented as we are. They didn't do things as we do now, they didn't know how. "But they did know how to possess their souls in the fear of the Lord and to order their lives in wisdom."

*Taken from a history of the Methodists dating from the 1800's

FROM THE KITCHEN OF NANCY GOTWALS: CHICKEN POT PIE

2 Cans (10 3/4 oz) Cream of Potato Soup

1 Can (16 oz) Mixed Veggies Drained

2 Cups Cooked, Diced Chicken

1/2 Cup Milk

1/2 tsp. Thyme

1/2 tsp. Pepper

Dash Salt

2-9" pie crusts

Combine all ingredients and spoon into one of the pie shells. Cover with remaining crust, crimping edges to sea. Slit top.

Bake at 375° for 40-45 minutes

Cool 10 minutes and savor!

CHURCH DISCIPLINE IN THE FIRST CHURCH IN BOSTON 1630-1868

Case #1 Absentee Church Member:

Also this Day our brother John Webb (otherwise Everett) was Admonisht by our pastor with Consent of the Church, for that a day of Humiliation being called, upon special and weighty occasion, He did not onely absent himself that day without iust Cause, but did also take liberty to spend part of the day in feasting and sporting at Quoytes abroad, and that in the Company of such whereof some of them were Scandalous.

Case #2 Bad Treatment of Wife and Children:

Robert Parker our brother whoe was excommunicate the 6th of the 10th moneth 1635 for scandalous oppression of his wives children in selling away there inheritance from them, and other hard usage both of her and them, was this day upon profession of his repentance received againe to the fellowship of the church.

Case #3 Buckskin Purloyned

Our brother Richard Wayte having purloyned out of buckskyn lether brought unto him, soe much thereof as would make 3 mens gloves to the Scandall of sundry without, as well as of his brethren, and also having beene by some of the brethren dealt withall for it, did often deny and forswear the same, without harkening to their Convincings according to the Rule, or to the Church to which it was brought, was therefore this day, with Joynt Consent of the Congregation Cast out of the Church.

Case #4 Cruel Mother

Anne Walker the wife of one Richard Walker and sometime the wife and widowe of our brother Robert Houlton having before this day beene often privately Admonished of sundry Scandalls, as of Drunkenish, Intemperate, and uncleane or wantonish behaviour, and likewise of Cruelty towards her Children and also of manifold lyes and still to this day persisting impenitently therein, was therefore now with Joynt Consent of the Congregation Cast out of the Church.

Case #5 Reconciled Sister

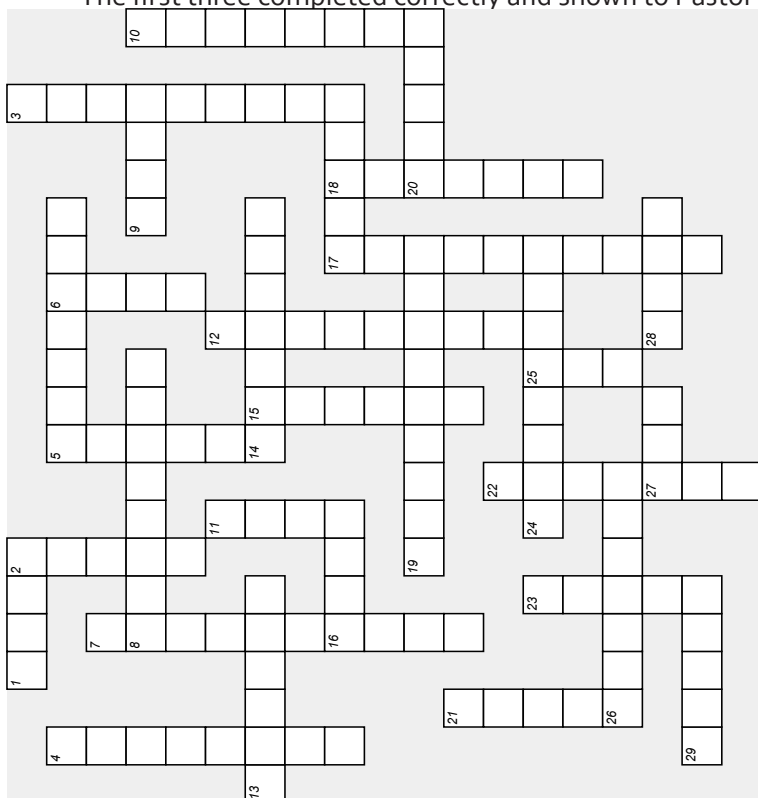
Also our sister Temperance Sweete the wife of one John Sweete was by our pastor (in the Name of the Lord and with the Consent of the Church taken by their silence) Admonisht for having received into house and given entertainment unto disorderly Company and ministering unto them wine and strong waters even unto Drunkenesse and that not without some iniquity both in the measure and pryce thereof. ...Whereas...now by the Grace of God penitentially made open acknowledgment of her sinfullnesse therein She is become Reconciled to the Church.

Case #6 Stolen Wine

Our brother Aurthur Clark was in open Assembly by our Elder Mr Olicer with the Consent of the Church by their silence Cast our of it for scandalously stealing many gallons of wine out of a pipe of wine, and corrupting the rest by filling it up with beare and also stealing wine out of other vessells partly selling of it and with part thereof distemping himselfe unto drunkenesse and likewise for extenuating his falsehood therein with some lyeinge.

In The Beginning

Genesis Chapters 1 - 11



*The first three completed correctly and shown to Pastor David will receive a treat!

www.CrosswordWeaver.com

ACROSS

- 1 second son
- 5 first book
- 8 surrounded by river
- 9 grandson of oldest man
- 13 Ham was his father
- 14 symbol of God's promise
- 16 first home for first couple
- 17 author of first book
- 19 _____ was called heaven
- 20 a bird
- 24 _____ was upon the face of the deep
- 26 land where there is gold
- 27 first woman
- 28 first man
- 29 but Noah found _____ in the eyes of God

DOWN

- 2 let there be _____
- 3 river flowing from the garden
- 4 Noah planted a _____
- 5 type of wood
- 6 a third son
- 7 first five books
- 10 Adam had _____ over the . . .
- 11 first son
- 12 _____ of good and evil
- 15 mountains
- 17 oldest man
- 18 first form of evil
- 21 walked with God
- 22 son of Noah
- 23 an _____ branch
- 25 where Cain dwelt

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PLACE
 STAMP
 HERE

Men, get prepared for our annual Men's
 Camp-out, Heart of a Warrior
 June 26-28